

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on April 11, 2005.

Claims 4, 25, and 29 are amended. Claim 28 is canceled. No claims are added. As a result, claims 4-27 and 29 are now pending in this application.

For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicants' remarks concerning the claims will be presented in the same order in which the Examiner presented them in the Office Action.

Amendments to Claims 4, 25, and 29

Independent claims 4 and 25 have been amended. The dependency of claim 29 has been switched from claim 28 to claim 25. No new matter has been introduced.

Independent claim 4 has been amended by inserting "adhesion" before layer (first occurrence); by adding the phrase "forming a diffusion layer on the adhesion layer"; by adding the phrase "forming a solder-wettable layer on the diffusion layer"; and by substituting "solder-wettable" for "at least one metal".

Independent claim 25 has been amended by adding the phrase "forming a diffusion layer on the adhesion layer", and by substituting "diffusion" for "adhesion".

Claim 28 has been canceled, because its subject matter has been incorporated into independent claim 25.

Rejection of Claims 4, 5, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as Anticipated by Kajiwara

Claims 4, 5, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kajiwara (JP 63287038).

Because claim 4 has been amended to recite at least all of the limitations recited in allowed independent claim 8, claim 4 should now also be allowable.

Claims 5-7, which are dependent upon claim 4, should also be allowable.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 4, 5, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kajiwara should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 25-27 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)
as Anticipated by Wood

Claims 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wood (U.S. Patent No. 6,107,122). Applicants do not admit that Wood is prior art and reserve the right to swear behind Wood as provided for under 37 C.F.R. §1.131.

Claim 28 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, the subject matter of claim 28 has been incorporated into independent claim 25. Thus, claim 25, as well as claims 26, 27, and 29 dependent thereon, should now be allowable.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wood should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)
as Unpatentable over Kajiwara

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajiwara.

Claim 6 is dependent upon claim 4. As mentioned above, claim 4, as amended, is asserted to be allowable over Kajiwara, so claim 6 should also be allowable over Kajiwara.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajiwara should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-24 were allowed.

Claims 28 and 29 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but they were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As mentioned above, the subject matter of claim 28 has been incorporated into claim 25, and claim 28 has accordingly been canceled.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4-27 and 29 are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney, Walter W. Nielsen (located in Phoenix, Arizona) at (602) 298-8920, or the below-signed attorney (located in Minneapolis, Minnesota) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

BISWAJIT SUR ET AL.

By their Representatives,

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Date June 13, 2005

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 13th day of June 2005.

John V. Gustav-Wrathell

Name

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Signature